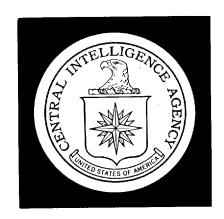
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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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Approved For Release	2004/03/15:	CIA-RDP79T00975	5A017200090003-9

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LEBANON-FEDAYEEN: BEIRUT FEARS THAT GREATER NUMBERS OF PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS WILL SOON MOVE INTO LEBANON AND INCREASE THEIR ANTI-ISRAELI OP-ERATIONS.

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THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE FEDAYEEN ARE ONLY WAITING TO SETTLE THEIR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH JORDAN BEFORE BEGINNING TO SHIFT INTO LEBANON. WHEN THIS OCCURS, PROBABLY WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, BEIRUT WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO TRY TO RESTRICT A MASSIVE INFLUX OF FEDAYEEN, AND LATER, HOW FIRMLY TO OPPOSE ANY INCREASE IN FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS.

PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH REPORTEDLY WILL NOT
HESITATE TO ACT FIRMLY IF HE BELIEVES LEBANON'S
SOVEREIGNTY IS AT STAKE. FRANJIYAH IS A TOUGH—
WILLED INDIVIDUAL ACCUSTOMED TO MAKING DIFFICULT
DECISIONS MORE QUICKLY THAN HIS PREDECESSOR.
MOREOVER, THE LEBANESE ARMY, LIKE ITS JORDANIAN
COUNTERPART, HAS SOME OLD ACCOUNTS TO SETTLE WITH
THE FEDAYEEN. THE ARMY'S CAPABILITY TO HANDLE
THE SITUATION IS LIMITED ONLY BY THE FACT THAT IT
NEEDS EQUIPMENT
ITS FIREPOWER.

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DESPITE THE ARMY'S EAGERNESS, THE US MISSION'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE FEDAYEEN WILL BE
ALLOWED TO INITIATE ANY CONFRONTATION. FACED
WITH THE UNHAPPY AFTERMATH OF THE JORDAN CONFLICT,
THE LEBANESE ARE UNLIKELY TO RISK INCURRING THE
WRATH OF ARAB LEADERS ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANOTHER
INTER-ARAB BLOODBATH.

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